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Allen-Scott Report

Soviet Using Telstar to Conduct Own Communications Tests

By **ROBERT S. ALLEN** and **PAUL SCOTT**

Russian scientists are using Telstar to conduct their own communications experiments.

Radio and TV messages are being relayed between ground control stations in Russia by bouncing signals off this nation's first communications satellite as it passes over Soviet territory.

These bootleg experiments, under way since Telstar was launched last August, were discovered by long-range radio detection equipment the U. S. operates from Turkey.



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The U. S. signal "finders" have pinpointed two of the Russian ground communications stations. One is located at Serpukhov, near Lake Balkhash, and the other near Novosibirsk, in the south central section of Siberia. A third communication terminal is believed to be in the Crimea.

IN THEIR CLANDESTINE experiments, the Soviet scientists are testing a communications relay system and truck route by "reading out" messages sent to the satellite by another ground station.

This unauthorized use of Telstar is permitting the Russians, with a minimum investment

of funds, to obtain valuable operating experience with the communications satellite system.

The research "windfall" from Telstar is believed to be behind the Kremlin's surprise decision to press the U. S. to conclude an agreement for cooperation in the peaceful exploration of space.

The Russians are expressing strong desire to enter into the pact which provides for cooperation research in the use of communications and weather satellites and the study of the earth's magnetic field.

This unannounced Soviet response was in a long-delayed reply to a diplomatic note from the U.S. early in September calling for their signature on a bilateral space agreement.

U. S. SPACE and Intelligence officials are of the opinion that the Russians delayed their approval until the Kremlin was certain its scientists had in operation the necessary equipment to take full advantage of the highly successful Telstar experiment.

Now, they believe the Soviets not only want to expand their experiment but make it legal at the same time.

Final U. S. approval of the space accord is being held up on orders from President Kennedy. Although he favors the cooperation agreement, the President is taking the position that it must await settlement of the Cuban crisis.